SPS Hospitals

Apollo Hospital

Pillars of SPS Hospital: Quality, Medical & Service Excellence

By - Mediawire

Jan 26, 2021

Guided by Sri Satguru Jagjit Singhji's vision of making international quality healthcare accessible to the people of Punjab, The Satguru Partap Singh Hospital was set up in the year 2005. Spread across 1,64,117 sq ft area, it has today become one of the North India's most respected Healthcare Institutes.

Quality, medical & service excellences are the pillars of this institution. At SPS Hospital, the level of service and eye for detailing in everything that is done truly sets it apart and makes it the top care provider of choice for millions of patients.

The organization serves as a role model in several areas of clinical care, and is sought after by aspiring doctors, nurses and paramedical staff as a top-notch organization to work for. Reaching its current position would have been next to impossible had it not been the unflinching commitment and support given by its leadership team, both at the Board & operating level. The SPS Hospital leadership has provided consistent strategic guidance and supervision, that has inspired the organization to meet and exceed world-class benchmarks. All this was achievable only due to the passion, perseverance and untiring efforts of the SPS Hospital staff. Most importantly, the trust reposed in the hospital by their many thankful patients and their families is testimony of the hospital staff's sincerity, devotion and commitment.

Over the years SPS Hospitals has received many awards and accolades, from various national and international bodies, in recognition of the work done by the hospital and its contribution to the medical field. The achievements of the eminent medical professionals from its various departments have also been recognized for achieving excellence in their respective medical specialties. Some of them being:

- First Prize by Punjab Energy Development Agency: rated as the best commercial building in Punjab in 2011.
- Excellence in Community Services: received the Innovation and Quality Award in the category of Excellence in Community Services for the Healthy Kids Campaign in 2013.
- FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards for Patient Safety in 2014.
- National Awards for Excellence in Healthcare: Award for the Best Patient Safety Initiative in Healthcare in 2016.
- National Awards for Excellence in Healthcare: Excellence in Training and Development in 2016.
- Global CSR Excellence Leadership Awards: Concern for Health in 2016.

Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation is considered as the gold standard in global health care. It is recognized globally as the world's leader in health care accreditation and the author and evaluator of the most rigorous international standards in quality and patient safety. SPS was the 4th Hospital in India to be re-accredited with JCI four times. They are also certified with NABH Entry Level for the Hospital. Our Blood bank and Laboratory Services are also accredited with NABH and NABL respectively.

In this age of information technology, which is changing the very nature of healthcare, SPS has embedded IT in the core of its functioning. The institute has always been pioneers in bringing latest technology into Punjab State. The medical practices and

procedures followed in the hospital are research oriented and benchmarked against the best in the world.

In last three months, SPS Hospital has conducted more than 50 joints replacement surgeries. It is also coming up with a complete Cancer Care Unit with Radiation Oncology and PET CT facility shortly. SPS Hospital also has a reputation for having the best IVF Centre in the vicinity with state-of-art ICSI machine.

CSR initiatives are integral with the goals and objectives of SPS Healthcare. Medical Camps and Outreach OPDs, international Medical Camps, Health Awareness Programs, Healthy Kids Campaign, Free Screening Camps, Stroke Clinic, Basic Life

Support Training are the way of life for its staff and are regularly conducted by the organization.

Recognizing the incredible challenge posed by the COVID-19 crisis, the hospital developed strategic preparedness and response plan to prevent, prepare for and respond to the pandemic. Around eighty beds have been dedicated towards the treatment of COVID patients. So far more than 5000 patients have been treated for COVID.

SPS Hospital is also one of the pioneers in the state to start a Molecular Lab. More than eight thousand RT-PCR samples have been processed by the Hospital till date. Being a hospital with 'patient first' culture, it has conducted both Renal and Liver transplant surgeries even during the ongoing pandemic.

In its journey of 16 years, SPS Hospital has developed a culture of safety and is a preferred destination for any kind of medical emergency due to its skilled clinicians and nursing team and leader's drive-effective teamwork approach.

For more details you can send a mail to info@spshospitals.com or marketing@spshospitals.com, or call: 9875954344 / 9875954343 / 8872027380.

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals

Ludhiana is home to many of the leading industrial groups in India. SPS Apollo Hospitals, a 350 bed state of the art hospital, was set up in Ludhiana in the year 2005

This iconic landmark on GT Road has set new standards in healthcare, hitherto unheard of in this part of India. It all began with the desire of his holiness Satguru Partap Singhji, to have a world class health facility in Punjab to alleviate the sufferings of humanity, by offering them quality and affordable health care. This dream was fulfilled was by the present head of the Namdhari Sangat, his holiness Jagjit Singhji.
His holiness Satguru Jagjit Singhji called upon Thakur Uday Singhji, The Chairman of SPS Apollo Hospitals, to fulfill his holiness Satguru Partap Singh ji's dream of setting a super speciality hospital in Punjab.

Thakur Uday Singhji, a visionary and a leading Industrialist having diverse business interests in Bangalore, set out on the noble mission of setting up a super speciality hospital in Ludhiana in accordance with Satguruji's wish.

Thakur Uday Singhji entrusted the mantle of overseeing the commissioning of this prestigious project to Shri Jugdiep Singh, the Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals. Under the able leadership of Shri Jugdiep Singh, this hospital was constructed and commissioned in the year 2005. The hospital was inaugurated in the year 2005 by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh.

Set up under the auspices of Satguruji, this hospital was founded on the following core principles :

- Ethics
- Transparency
- Quality and affordability

It hardly came as a surprise to everyone, when this hospital became the first hospital in South East Asia to achieve the prestigious JCI accreditation within two years of operations.

JCI accreditation brought with it a new set of challenges. The challenge of maintaining the highest standards of excellence, the challenge of attending to each and every patient with a single-minded dedication and the challenge of improving continuously with every passing day.

SPS Apollo Hospital has scored very high on all these parameters. At SPS Apollo Hospitals, the hospital has the most eminent panel of medical professionals, well trained paramedical staff and the most caring nursing professionals. Backing them are the latest state-of- the-art equipments and the best infrastructure supported by cutting edge technology.

The Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals

Jugdiep Singh, the Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals is a visionary and a management professional who leads from the front. He has been instrumental in making this hospital what it is today. His pioneering and spirited efforts have helped this hospital scale one peak after another. Be it JCI accreditation, or the commissioning of the hospital at one of the

lowest capital costs in the country, or be it our achievement of clocking a sales CAGR of 83 per cent since inception and breaking even in a period of three years.

A firm believer in the core values of ethics and transparency, he has been successful in building up a strong team of professionals equally committed to the core values of the hospital. He has been able to foster a spirit of camaraderie amongst all medical, para-medical and administration professionals resulting in highest standards of medical- care being provided to patients.

Right from the stage of patient admission till the stage of discharge, all medical and non-medical activities are meticulously reviewed by him. It is to his credit that treatment procedures at SPS Apollo Hospitals are orchestrated in a highly coordinated and professional manner and that too at a cost which is very affordable.

Medical Milestones

- India's youngest premature baby (at 24 weeks gestation) treated at SPS Apollo.
- Rare combined hip replacement and cardiac bypass surgery on a 75-year-old male. There has been no such case reported in medical literature.
- First rotating platform knee replacement in the region.
- Successful knee replacement surgery on a 99-year-old lady.
- First to perform awake craniotomy in the region.
- First to perform bariatric (weight loss) surgery north of Delhi.

- First to introduce mini-incision hip replacement surgery in Punjab and neighbouring states.

Serve with Splendour

From a 140-bed hospital in 2005 to 1,000 beds in next five years— that is the galloping pace with which SPS Apollo Hospital, Ludhiana has chalked out its spiraling growth, finds out **Rita Dutta**

The industrial capital of Punjab, Ludhiana, is not just renowned for woolen and hosiery products. This town with a population of around 30 lakh has a grandeur attached to it— after all it is in proud possession of maximum number of BMWs in India! So, for the residents of this fast developing town with deep pockets, a state-of-the-art hospital was a sin qua non.

Thus stemmed SPS Hospital located at Sherpur Chowk on GT Road. The 240-bed hospital is the largest and one of the most successful private hospitals in North of Delhi- catering not only to patients from Punjab, but also from J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. The hospital also receives a regular flow of NRI patients from Canada, the UK, the US and

foreign patients from Kenya, UAE and Fiji. The international patients from these countries usually flock for hysterectomy, bariatric surgery and also complex deliveries. With steady stream of patients, it is no wonder that in its fourth year of operation, the revenue for the last financial year was Rs 75 crore.

Designed in modern architecture, the hospital boasts of a swanky lobby (with a height of 30 metres). The beauty of the lobby is heightened by a magnificent and beautiful dome that imbues the surrounding with sun light.

Flashback

"With four years of operations, our patients and revenues have constantly doubled year-on-year"

- Jugdiep Singh
Managing Director
SPS Apollo Hospital
Ludhiana

"In the next five years, we plan to have 1,000 beds in Punjab, with Ludhiana hospital as a hub"

- Thakur Uday Singh
Chairman
SPS Apollo Hospital
Ludhiana

It is believed that Sri Satguru Pratap Singh Ji, the spiritual head of Namdhari Sikhs, had a vision of bringing a modern and affordable healthcare facility in Ludhiana. He passed on his vision to his son, Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, who showed his love and affinity for healthcare by sponsoring more than a 100 cardiac surgeries in different hospitals of India. The vision of world-class healthcare in Ludhiana was carried forward by Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh's nephew Thakur Uday Singh, Chairman, Namdhari Seeds Private Limited, one of India's largest seed exporting companies.

Says Thakur Uday Singh, Chairman, SPS Apollo Hospital, and also the largest shareholder of SPS Apollo, "We are privileged to have carried forward the dream of Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji. We shall all endeavour to make this hospital a destination of choice for healthcare."

Thus, the Rs-225-crore SPS Apollo Hospital project on GT Road was conceived in 2001. The hospital is a JV between Apollo Hospital and SJS Holdings Limited (the company constituted by Thakur Uday Sigh as majority stake holder to start the healthcare venture), with Apollo Hospital providing operational and technical support— since its inception. The land, building and equipment— all belong to the SPS Group. All recruitments are done by SPS Group with concurrence from Apollo.

The eight-storeyed hospital building, spread over a seven acre land and having floor space of 3,30,000 square feet, was commissioned in March 2005 with 140 beds. The hospital was formerly inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in September 2005.

Active Progress

Today, the hospital has expanded to 240 beds, but is scalable up to 325 beds. The hospital, which employs 52 full-time consultants and 800 employees, attained operational breakeven in 2007-2008. Says Jugdiep Singh, Managing Director, SPS Apollo Hospital, "With four years of operations, our patient and revenues have constantly doubled year-on-year. In this short span, we have established ourselves as a centre of excellence in many fields and touched lives of around three lakh patients."

Many patients troop in by word-of-mouth publicity or as Abhijit Singh, Analyst-Business and Strategy, SPS Apollo Hospital, points out, "Being located off the GT Road has been a boon as people passing by have been amazed by a modern hospital in such an area, dropped in to assess the facility and decided to come back for treatment."

According to Jugdiep Singh, "The USP of the hospital lies in the fact that the hospital provides comprehensive healthcare service under one roof in north of Delhi. We also ensure access to well-qualified and dedicated staff, international quality of healthcare, safe environment, respect for rights, privacy and confidentiality and ethical and transparent processes. Additionally, we are a low-cost healthcare provider. When compared to hospitals in Delhi, we are 25 per cent cheaper."

Quality Wise

The grand lobby of the hospital

One of the steel OTs of the hospital

The commitment to quality and patient safety is evident in the incredible fact that it is the first hospital in South-East Asia to be accredited by JCI— within two years of its operation. It bagged JCI in February 2007.

The hospital has adopted practices like lean and six sigma to improve processes. It has devised 150 quality indicators. Says Dr SP Singh, Chief Operating Officer, SPS Apollo Hospital, "We are VAP-free, our CR-UTI rates are lesser than National Healthcare Safety Network from March 2008 to

February 2009. Our mortality rate for cardiac surgery is less than two per cent."

A Pat on the Back

For a state with dwindling female sex ratio (798 per 1,000 males against the national ratio of 927 per 1,000 males) it is encouraging to know that the HR department of the hospital is completely manned by a team of women professionals. Even though it may be a mere co-incidence but an interesting fact is also that Apollo group's torch-bearers are also three fiery alpha women!

To boost the declining female sex ratio and to curb female foeticide, the hospital holds talks against female foeticide in various villages of Punjab. "We also hand-over a sum of Rs 1,100 to a family giving birth to a female child in our hospital," says J Sivakumaran, Vice President - Commercial, SPS Apollo.

CSR

Taking cue from the recent horrifying incident of a Delhi school girl succumbing to asthma attack in the absence of any nebuliser in the school premises, SPS Apollo Hospital, in an attempt to prevent such incidents in Ludhiana distributed free nebulisers in 11 schools in Ludhiana. "We have earmarked Rs five lakh for this activity," says Sunil Mehta, Manager, Marketing, SPS Apollo.

Additionally, the hospital has devised a life-saver programme to train highway police, gym instructors, school children and collegians in BLS. The hospital has constituted a

special committee for training residents and school children on first aid. It regularly conducts first aid programme in resident welfare association and visits different colonies to conduct BLS. It distributes free medical kits to residents during such camps.

For a town with high pollution level, the hospital has distributed free masks to cops and also conducted free chest X-rays for them. The hospital claims to have spent Rs six crore on CSR, just last financial year.

Significant Achievements
The hospital has a long list of accomplishments. • It has pioneered bariatric surgery in Punjab, when in July 2005 it conducted stomach bypass on a 120-kiligram-man and reduced his weight to 69 kilograms. • The hospital has pioneered joint replacement surgeries, rotating platform knee replacement (2008) and mini incision hip replacement (2008) and awake beating heart surgery (2009)— all in Punjab. • Renowned for providing quality mother and child care in North India, the hospital successfully treated a 24-week gestation baby in 2008. • It is also amongst the very few hospitals to introduce surgical cure for type II diabetes.

- In May 2009, it successfully conducted beating heart surgery with aortic carotid bypass.

The Challenges

As with any new hospital, the initial challenge was to fill up the beds. Having no airport in the town only made it more difficult, mainly for getting international patients. The nearest airport is in Chandigarh (90 kilometers away) or the international airport Amritsar (150 kilometers away).

"With the middle class segment in mind, another ongoing challenge is to keep cost low in a price sensitive market like Punjab, without compromising on the quality. Strict inventory control, material management and operational efficiency are other challenges," says Jugdiep Singh.

The Road Ahead

Encouraged by recognition and spurred by success, the hospital has chalked out ambitious plans, ranging from expansion to foraying into education.

Oncology: The hospital would soon complete its gamut of cancer care by starting radiation oncology in a few months time. "We would equip the centre with IGRT," says Sivakumaran.

But the long-term plan is to start a cancer hospital SPS Cancer Hospital in the same premises at an estimated cost of Rs 45 crore to Rs 50 crore. "The project report is still being prepared for that," says Jugdiep Singh.

Tele-triage: In a unique concept to boost fast medical help to patients/ relatives who call the hospital for medical help, the hospital is toying with the idea of tele-triage. "Often calls made to the hospital do not reach the right department. Sometimes, immediate medical help needs to be given. So, we want trained staff handle such hospital calls, so as to guide patients with the right advice," says Jugdiep Singh.

Bariatric Wing: To cater to the rising demand of bariatric surgery by international patients, the hospital is starting a dedicated bariatric wing.

ICU beds: By next year, the hospital plans to scale up its ICU beds from 60 to 100. "With 100 ICU beds we would the largest ICU set up in Punjab's private healthcare set up," says Jugdiep Singh.

Within a span of six months, the hospital would also start a 15-bed gastro critical care unit. This unit would later start liver transplantations, with help from Indrapastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, which has done record number of cases in liver transplant. "With alcohol-related disease being acute in the state of Punjab, the need for liver transplantation is high in this region. As of now, people have to go all the way to Delhi for liver transplant," says Jugdiep Singh. The hospital would also upgrade its two-bed paeditric ICU to 10 beds.

Education: Medical education is on the radar. Addressing shortage of nurses, it is soon starting BSc nursing college, for which a separate land has been allotted around seven kilometers from the hospital. In collaboration with IGNOU, the hospital is also starting a certificate course for lab technicians, dialysis technicians and OT technicians. It has also applied for DNB programme for general surgery, obstretics and gynaecology, radio diagnostics and anaesthetics.

It is also exploring the option of starting a medical college in the future. With such well-laid out plans, the target of Rs 100 crore turnover for this financial year does not seem all that impossible.

Step-by-Step

After kissing success in Ludhiana, the group is accelerating its growth story by tapping the virgin markets of other districts of Punjab. "In the next five years, we plan to have around 1,000 beds in Punjab, with this hospital acting as a hub. We would explore all business models (acquisition, Greenfield, brownfield and management consultant) to achieve that target. We want to do this in association with Apollo," says Uday Singh.

So, be ready to hear more buzz about this group in the years to come.

rita.dutta@expressindia.com

www.expresshealthcare.in July 2009

Health, education need of hour: Advani

From Our Correspondent

29-10-2000

LUDHIANA, Oct 28 — It was VIPs' galore in the city as the Union Home Minister, Mr Lal Krishan Advani, was on a brief visit to lay the foundation stone of a state of the art 'Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospital' here today. Besides the Union Sports Minister, Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, the Chief Minister, Punjab, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, his Cabinet colleagues Mr Balram ji Das Tandon, Mr Madan Mohan Mittal, Mr Jagdish Singh Garcha, Mr Manoranjan Kalia, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Mr Charanjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Mr Sat Pal Gosain and Punjab BJP president, Mr Brij Lal Rinwa, were present to accord welcome to Mr Advani.

Mr Advani observed that education and healthcare were the two main pre-requisites for development of the country and setting up educational and health institutions was the need of the hour. He said internationally acclaimed Indian economist and nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen had also emphasised that reasonably good education and health care facilities had to be provided to the people to sustain economic growth.

"India is a country with great potential and rich in human resources. Our IT professionals and computer software engineers are being welcomed with open arms all over the world," the Home Minister maintained. He said healthcare facilities needed to be expanded to bring them within the reach of masses and super speciality centres, like the one coming up in the city, could play a vital role in this regard by making available latest medical facilities at affordable cost to the suffering humanity.

Welcoming Mr Advani, Mr Badal pointed out that ever since the NDA government led by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee took over at Centre, Punjab, which had been persistently being discriminated against by successive Congress governments, was given a fair deal. "The Centre had allotted many big projects like the oil refinery, international airport in Amrtitsar, science city in Jalandhar and Chandigarh-Ludhiana rail link to Punjab." The latest goodwill gesture of the Union Government towards Punjab was the Rs 350 crore package for paddy growers, he added.

Stressing the need for providing good quality treatment at a reasonable cost to people, especially in the remote and rural areas, he said, the health cover, even to the poorest of the poor, should be assured. The super speciality hospitals should not only cater to the health needs of the affluent, but should also be open to the economically weaker sections and some percentage of beds, as also other facilities, be reserved for the poor.

Mr Badal paid rich compliments to the Naamdhari sect, which he said, had taken the initiative to bring the premier health institution to the city. "The Naamdhari sect or 'kukas' as they are popularly known, had made enormous sacrifices for the sake of the country, right from the time of Baba Ram Singh, the founder of the sect, who had resorted to complete boycott of the British Government and had, in a way, laid the foundation for the freedom movement in the country." He wanted the Centre to assist in erecting a suitable memorial for veteran freedom fighters and martyrs from Punjab so that the younger generations could draw inspiration and the sense of patriotism from those who had made unique sacrifices for the sake of their motherland.

The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, expressed his happiness that latest medical facilities

would be made available by the Apollo Hospital to the people of Punjab. He, however, added that the government and the civic body would have to make extra efforts to develop the kind of infrastructural facilities, that were needed to cope with the increase in population and the influx of people to this city, which was known as industrial capital of the state. He also invited the Apollo group to set up a similar institution in the state of J&K and assured all assistance from the state government for this purpose.

The Union Sports Minister, Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, expressed his concern over the alarming levels of pollution and unchecked population growth. Both of these had to be kept under control, he remarked. While pollution was playing havoc with the health of the urban people, the rising population made it difficult that the fruits of development percolated right down to the under privileged and the weaker sections. Referring to the sacrifices made by a large number of followers of Naamdhari Darbar, led by its founder Baba Ram Singh, he made a fervent plea that all such events should be properly recorded in the history books for the posterity.

In his speech, the chief executive of the Apollo Hospital group, Dr Partap C. Reddy, informed that the proposed hospital in the city, estimated to cost around Rs 75 crore would be ready in about two years time. It would provide totality of healthcare and facilities, available anywhere in the world. The hospital, he added, would be a perfect combination of best of medical talent and state of the art diagnostic and treatment technology.

According to Dr Reddy, himself an eminent cardiologist, the core areas of specialisation in the hospital would be cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, nephrology, urology, orthopaedics,

gastroenterology, obstetrics, gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT, dentistry, general medicine and general surgery.

The chief of the Naamdhari sect Baba Jagjit Singh remarked that the hospital, being set up jointly by the Naamdhari Darbar and the Apollo group, was another step towards service of the mankind. "Through the proposed 'state of the art' hospital, the Naamdhari Darbar was striving to realise the dreams of Baba Partap Singh (the father of the present chief)," the Baba said.

Others, who addressed the function were the Punjab BJP president Brij Lal Rinwa, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Charanjit Singh Atwal and S.S. Ahluwalia, member of Rajya Sabha while ruling SAD (B) general secretary Balwinder Singh Bhundar, Lala Lajpat Rai, MP and Gurcharan Singh Ghalib, MP were present.

Later, the Union Home Minister unveiled the foundation stone of the hospital, before airdashing to Lucknow to take part in the swearing in ceremony of the new Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr Raj Nath Singh, Mr Badal, Dr Farooq Abdullah and the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr Prem Kumar Dhumal also accompanied Mr Advani

March 2004

Apollo Hospital comes to city

Our Correspondent

Ludhiana, March 5

SPS Apollo Hospital will be operational here from June. Thakur Uday Singh, Managing Director of the hospital, said at a press conference that the project had been implemented by Satguru Jagjit Singh through SJS Holdings Ltd. The 300-bedded hospital would have the state-of-the-art technology.

The hospital costing about Rs 75 crore would house clinical departments and the medical stores and support services would be located in a separate building.

Super-speciality services would be offered. To monitor the efficiency and quality, a hospital management information system along with global access telemedicine system had been planned.

Apollo Hospital gets international certification

Our Correspondent

From left) Jugdiep Singh, Dr G.L. Avasthi, Dr S.P. Singh, Shiv Kumaran and Dr P.S. Bhatia display the JCI certificate awarded to SPS Apollo Hospitals in Ludhiana on Tuesday. —Tribune photo by Inderjit Verma

Ludhiana, June 5,2007

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals here has achieved global accreditation from Joint Commission International (JCI), USA.

Addressing a news conference here today, Apollo executive director Jugdiep Singh said, "JCI, the gold standard in healthcare, focuses on areas that have a direct impact on patient care. These include access to care, assessment of patients, infection control, patient and family rights and education. JCI also addresses facility management and safety, staff qualifications and education, quality improvement, organisational leadership and management of information, with almost 1,033 measurable elements."

According to Dr G.L. Avasthi, director medical services at Apollo, the JCI accreditation was awarded after a rigorous on-site evaluation by team of international health-care experts, who appraised the hospital, based on international standards of infection control, medication management, quality improvement processes, patient care, safety issues and structural compliance like building and fire safety, procurement of materials, water supply, and uninterrupted power supply for controlled and quality patient outcome.

Dr S. P. Singh, COO, Apollo, said it was indeed an honour for the institution to be awarded the JCI accreditation within just two years of the hospital's inception.

Speaking at the occasion, medical superintendent Dr P.S. Bhatia expressed hope that the JCI healthcare quality accreditation will raise the standards of healthcare in the region, and also lead to more and more NRI's and foreign nationals to this region, thereby giving an impetus to the medical tourism in the region, which was expected to become a whopping $ 2.3 billion business for India by 2012.

Apollo to set up cancer unit

Our Correspondent

Ludhiana, July 12

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals here has decided to set up a new unit for cancer patients with an investment of Rs 25 crore at its existing facility. This was announced here today by Dr S.P. Singh, chairman of the hospital, while welcoming Dr Navdeep Singh, a renowned medical oncologist, who had joined Apollo as a consultant.

He said the hospital would also submit a proposal to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for approval. Post expansion, the hospital would have 550 beds, as against the current strength of 350 beds. This was in line with the hospital's dream of providing one-stop solution for cancer patients.

With the joining of Dr Navdeep, the hospital would be in a position to offer treatment of all cancers like acute and chronic leukemias (blood cancer), lymphomas, myeloma and cancers of breast, lung, stomach, liver, gall bladder, intestine, colon, pancreas, bone, kidney, prostate, urinary bladder, ovary, uterus and skin.

According to Dr P.S. Bhatia, medical superintendent at Apollo, a team of health care professionals, including medical oncologists, surgeons, anaesthesiologist, oncology nurses, oncology pharmacy specialist, pathologist, physiotherapist, plastic surgeon and reconstructive surgeon, each with a special role, will support patients during their assessment, treatment and follow-up care.

"The hospital has a backup for leukemia (blood cancer) chemotherapy, day care for other chemotherapy, isolation room for bone marrow transplant, excellent blood component support (blood, platelet and plasma transfusion). A one day cancer care camp is being organised at the hospital on coming Saturday to mark the launch of the new facility," he added.

Manmohan for campaign against female foeticide

Amarjit Thind
Tribune News Service

Satguru Jagjit Singh honours Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with a rosary after the inauguration of the Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospital in Ludhiana on Friday. — Tribune photo by Sayeed Ahmad

Ludhiana, September 23

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, today gave a clarion call for a mass movement for the protection of the girl child, especially in Punjab, where the sex ratio was skewed. He also laid emphasis on the need to go in for preventive medicine

in a big way so that the emphasis on healthcare was on prevention rather than treatment.

The PM was on his maiden visit to the city today to inaugurate Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospital in the city. He formally unveiled a plaque on the occasion in the presence of Satguru Jagjit Singh, the present chief of the sect. Present on the dais were Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, AICC general secretary Ambika Soni, Namdhari darbar president H.S. Hanspal and Dr Parthap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals.

In his address, the PM said it was sad that the people today have forgotten the teachings of the Sikh Gurus on according the highest respect for women. The declining sex ratio was a serious and grave matter and hence, totally unacceptable to us. No country could develop by neglecting half its population, he emphasised.

"I want that the people of this prosperous state to start a campaign against female foeticide. We have seen that legislation is of little use if there is no social sanction against this evil practice. I also urge the doctors to exhibit a professional resolve to curb this practice," he added.

Dr Singh also dwelled on the need to have a rethink on the medical sector. While hospitals are needed, there was also the need for going in for preventive medicine in a big way. The emphasis should be to prevent the outbreak of disease rather than to raise hospitals to control the diseases later on. For this even a elementary step like providing clean drinking water to the people could go a long way in achieving this objective, he stressed.

He revealed that his government had recently launched the National Rural Health Mission which aim's to provide accessible, affordable, accountable and effective primary

healthcare, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of society. Besides this, we were also urging private organisations and religious sects and personalities to contribute towards building medical care infrastructure in the country, he said.

Significantly, the PM chose to maintain silence on the release of grants for completing many important and pending projects in the state. He, however, asked the CM to make full use of various Central schemes to benefit the people of the border state.

Earlier, Capt Amarinder Singh in his brief address urged the PM to release some much needed grants to complete various prestigious projects in the state. He also said more grants should be made available for the urban renewal projects if we were to attract more investment in the state.